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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year 1937.

ST. AUSTELL:
Printed by H. Hocking, Biddicks Court.

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St. Austell Urban District Council.

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1937.

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 J. WATERS, Esq.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

ARCHIBALD SHAW, M.D., C.M. (to 31st March).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

JOHN STEPHEN MOORE, F.R.C.S.E., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
 (to 31st March, and Medical Officer of Health from 1st April).

Sanitary Inspector, Petroleum and Shops Inspector :

FREDERICK HARDING, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I., A.I.S.E.

CERTIFIED MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTOR.

DIPLOMA INSTITUTE OF HYGIENE.

SANITARY SCIENCE CERTIFICATE, LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :

RONALD OSBORNE, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Pupil Assistants : LESLIE HORE STURTRIDGE.

THOMAS GEOFFREY BLAMEY (from 1st March)

ST. AUSTELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1937.

**To the Chairman and Members of the St. Austell
Urban District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my first Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

This report is the fourth covering the enlarged St. Austell Urban District which has an area of 18,288 acres and a population of 22,340.

The year under review represents a period of record activity from the Public Health standpoint, particularly with regard to Housing. The great Slum Clearance Drive has been well maintained throughout the year. A full report covering every detail of Housing and other work has been prepared by Mr. Harding, the Sanitary Inspector, and is included in his Annual Report which is appended hereto.

The Vital Statistics for the year are of interest. The Death Rate is lower than that for England and Wales but shows a slight increase as compared with the previous year. This, however, is accounted for by decrease in the population. The total number of infectious diseases notified, viz. :—57, shows an increase of 12 as compared with the previous year, the increase being accounted for by a greater number of cases of scarlet fever and tuberculosis.

The Sanitary Circumstances of the district receive the constant attention of Mr. Groves, the Surveyor, and of Mr. Harding, the Sanitary Inspector, and full particulars under this head are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

With regard to the General Provision of Health Services for such a large and important Urban District as St. Austell, it is to be regretted that no provision for the isolation of infectious diseases locally has yet been made, in some cases patients having to be sent to Plymouth, 40 miles away. In this respect I should like to stress the necessity for the provision of an isolation hospital at an early date, as this would obviate the necessity of Infectious Disease Cases having to be nursed in houses—often in slum types of dwellings—where the complete isolation of the patient cannot be carried out in accordance with Infectious Disease and Public Health Law.

Considered in detail the various items are as follows :—

1. STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	18,288 acres
Population	...	...	...	22,340
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	7,000 (approx.)
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£112,549
Product of 1d. rate	...	...	...	£416
General Rate	...	...	...	13/- in the £
Water Rate	...	...	...	1/10 in the £

The total number of unemployed on the register at the 7th January, 1938, was 933 a decrease of 15 on the previous year.

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

Table 1, on page 12, gives the vital statistics of the district compared with (a) England and Wales, (b) London, (c) 125 County Boroughs and Great Towns, and (d) 148 smaller towns.

Considered in detail the figures for the St. Austell Urban District are as follows:—

Deaths.

The Death Rate for 1937 is 12·18 per thousand of population after adjustment for purposes of comparability. This is an increase on the previous year when the rate was 11·53 per thousand but is lower than the rate for England and Wales which for 1937 is 12·4.

Births.

The Birth Rate for 1937 is 13·16 which is higher than the rate for the previous year—12·87 but is lower than the rate for England and Wales, viz.: 14·9 per thousand. A total of 294 live births were registered during the year, 142 males and 152 females. A total of 13 of these births were illegitimate, viz.: 2 males and 11 females.

Infantile Mortality.

There were 14 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, 8 males and 6 females, giving an infantile mortality rate of 47 per 1,000 registered births. This rate is lower than the rate for last year, viz.: 55 per thousand and is below the rate for England and Wales which is 58 per thousand.

3. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 1937 infectious disease notifications were received as follows:—

Scarlet fever	...	...	...	31
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis			...	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...		17
				—
Total	...			57
				—

Scarlet Fever.

31 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred during the year under review, this figure being rather high in comparison with previous years. One or two cases were very severe, and but for the prompt administration of Scarletina Anti-toxin would probably have proved fatal. All were nursed at home. Efforts made by myself and the Sanitary Inspector to trace the source of the disease were unsuccessful. There were no deaths from this disease during the year.

Diphtheria.

There were no cases of diphtheria during the year, a result which can be considered highly satisfactory.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is always kept available and is issued free of charge to local Medical Practitioners on demand.

Tuberculosis.

There were 21 cases of tuberculosis of which 17 were pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary. There were 16 deaths from tuberculosis during the year under review of which 11 were males and 5 females. The average age at death of males being 37 and of females 36 years.

Outpatient treatment of tuberculosis cases is carried out at the local centre established by the County Council. Cases requiring Sanatorium treatment are sent to the County Sanatorium, Tehidy, Camborne.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925—30.

Under these regulations it was found no action was required to be taken to exclude persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis being employed in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

No action was required to be taken during the year relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

4. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Full particulars of the Public Health officers of the Local Authority and their qualifications are given on the first page of this report.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

There are no laboratory facilities provided in the district by the Cornwall County Council. Bacteriological Examinations of Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli and of Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli are carried out by myself. Other bacteriological specimens have to be transmitted to private laboratories, and paid for by the Medical Practitioner concerned. Blood to be tested for Wasserman reaction is done free of cost through the Cornwall County Council.

Samples of water are submitted for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination to Dr. Hocking, Pathologist, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

There is a well-equipped and trained Ambulance Detachment which conveys patients from all parts of the area to the District Hospital, and also to other Hospitals outside the District. There are now two cars, one of which is available for infectious cases. This Ambulance Service is utilised to a great extent and, as the services of the men are given entirely voluntarily, their ability, willingness and spirit of service deserves the highest commendation.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

The St. Austell Nursing Association and other district associations affiliated to the Cornwall County Nursing Association, undertake this work and their services in this respect are very much appreciated.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There are three local clinics established by the Cornwall County Council. These are for Maternity and Child Welfare, an Orthopaedic Clinic, and a Tuberculosis Dispensary.

(e) Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

The St. Austell and District Hospital is the only voluntary Hospital in the District. This does very good work, dealing largely with acute surgical cases, accident cases, and with grave medical cases, which cannot properly be nursed at home. The number of beds is approximately thirty and over 1,000 patients a year receive treatment. There is another Hospital for patients under the charge of the Public Assistance Committee.

At long last it has been decided to build an Isolation Hospital for the locality which will serve the areas of Launceston, Bodmin, St. Austell and Liskeard. A Building Committee has been proposed, but it is unfortunate that delay has taken place due to disagreement as to representation.

(f) Mortuary Facilities.

The small mortuary situated at Par was renovated during the year at a few pounds cost. I am strongly of the opinion that the time has long since passed when a more modern and convenient building should be provided in a more central position to serve such a large and important area under your jurisdiction. I would suggest that the urgency of this matter calls for your early consideration.

5. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(a) Water Supply.

A constant supply was maintained for the greater part of the year, but owing to the very dry summer and the increased demand on the supply owing to new buildings and the Council's Re-Housing schemes great difficulty was experienced in maintaining the supply during the months of September and October, when the hours of supply had to be curtailed.

The proposed new water scheme at Hallaze, outlined in previous reports, was carried a stage further by the holding of the necessary Public Inquiry by the Minister of Health on the 14th July, which scheme has been sanctioned by him, and the whole of the various works will be submitted to tender and it is hoped that a start on the work will be commenced early in 1938.

This scheme will provide additional water for existing supplies and also provide a piped water supply to Mevagissey.

Small extensions of mains were completed to meet building by private enterprise.

(b) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

During the year small extensions of various sewers have been carried out to meet the demands of building.

The new drainage scheme for the re-drainage of the Charles-town Area to meet the increased volume of sewage and also extensions in the Duporth and Porthpean area to take the drainage of new property and the Holiday Camp at Duporth, at present drained into cess-pits, has been approved by the Minister of Health and the Contract let to Mr. F. J. Lobb, at £8,716 0 5, and the work commenced.

(c) Public Cleansing—Refuse Removal and Disposal.

The collection of house refuse for the whole of the Urban District is now carried out by direct labour.

Two 8 cu. yard covered motor freighters are used for this work, each with a driver and 3 loaders.

A weekly collection is given over the whole area with additional collections at business centres.

The whole of the refuse is tipped and dealt with by controlled tipping.

6. HOUSING: SLUM CLEARANCE.

Housing still remains the predominant feature of Public Health activity in this District and the Council's Five Year Programme of Slum Clearance was actively pursued during the whole of 1937.

The Ministry of Health confirmed the demolition of 41 out of a total of 42 houses contained in 10 Clearance Areas at St. Blazey and Tywardreath early in the year.

Later in the year I made Official Representations relative to 13 further Clearance Areas containing a total of 69 houses in the West, West Central and East Central Wards. These properties will be the subject of a Ministry of Health Public Inquiry early in the new year.

It is gratifying to report further progress with Slum Clearance in the District and I look forward to the time when this task will be completed. Having dealt with Slum Clearance in St. Blazey, Tywardreath and St. Austell, there remains the completion of the Council's Programme in the remainder of the Urban District. The North Ward is of comparatively large area and contains many cottages of the Rural type. The possibility of dealing with these will be investigated at the first opportunity. Mevagissey presents unique problems from the housing point of view—there being many houses on the Council's programme. This work will demand special attention and I can definitely state that some of the housing conditions in Mevagissey are intolerable according to modern standards—urgently demanding attention under the Housing Act.

Detailed accounts of activities relative to Slum Clearance and Reconditioning are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report which is appended hereto.

RE-HOUSING—1930 ACT.

(a) Rosehill-Middleway Re-housing Scheme.

This scheme was commenced in September, 1936, is now in an advanced stage of completion and comprises:—

16	4 Bedroom Non-parlour Type.
62	3 Bedroom Non-parlour Type.
58	2 Bedroom Non-parlour Type.
12	1 Bedroom Bungalows.
6	2 Bedroom with Flats over Shops.

154

The following houses were completed and occupied by persons displaced from Clearance Areas as follows:—

54	2 Bedroom Non-parlour houses.
32	3 Bedroom Non-parlour houses.

(b) Tywardreath (North Street) Re-housing Scheme.

This scheme was approved and Contract let during the year to provide 16 houses as follows:—

10	2 Bedroom Non-parlour Type.
4	3 Bedroom Non-parlour Type.
2	4 Bedroom Non-parlour Type.
—	
16	
—	

This scheme has been completed and the whole of the houses occupied by persons displaced from Clearance Areas.

A scheme is being prepared for the provision of 22 houses in Gover Road, which will provide:—

10	2 Bedroom Non-parlour Type.
12	3 Bedroom Non-parlour Type.
—	
22	
—	

This work will be commenced early in the new year.

I cannot conclude this report without expressing my appreciation of the courtesy and kindness shown me by the Council since my appointment as M.O.H. My grateful thanks are due to my colleagues, Messrs. Dobell and Groves, for their helpful co-operation and support, and I am particularly grateful to Mr. Harding, Sanitary Inspector, for his very valued assistance during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. STEPHEN MOORE, F.R.C.S.E., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Table I

VITAL STATISTICS.

	RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION		ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION									RATES PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid and Para-typhoid fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths (under 1 year)
England and Wales	14.9	0.60	12.4	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.07	0.45	0.54	5.8	58
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	14.9	0.67	12.5	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.08	0.39	0.45	7.9	62
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	15.3	0.64	11.9	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.42	0.42	3.2	55
London Administrative County	13.3	0.54	12.3	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.05	0.38	0.51	12.0	60
St. Austell	13.16	0.94	12.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.40	0.00	47

TABLE 2.

Total Deaths.					M.	F.
	All Causes	...	...	...	163	165
1.	Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Influenza	...	...	...	4	3
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	7	5
10.	Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	4	—
11.	Syphilis	...	...	...	1	—
12.	General Paralysis of Insane, Tabes Dorsalis, etc.	...	...	...	—	—
13.	Cancer	...	...	...	22	25
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	10
15.	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	11	22
16.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	39	48
17.	Aneurysm	...	...	...	1	—
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	12	4
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	8	6
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	2	5
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	3	2
22.	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	2	—
23.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	—
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	—
25.	Cirrhosis	...	...	...	—	—
26.	Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...	—	3
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	5	3
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	8	3
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...	—	2
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	...	...	...	7	4
32.	Senility	...	...	...	8	8
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	1
34.	Other Violence	...	...	...	3	4
35.	Other defined causes	...	...	...	13	8
36.	Ill defined causes	...	...	...	—	—

Table 3
Infantile Mortality, 1937.

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
Premature Birth	5	1	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	6
Respiratory Diseases (Atelectasis)	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	3
Violence (Asphyxiation) ...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	2
Circulatory Diseases ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
TOTALS	7	2	...	1	10	...	3	1	...	14

Table 4
TUBERCULOSIS.
New cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0
1	1	...
5	1	...
15	1	2	1	...
25	...	3	2	...	1	...	1	...
35	...	2	1	...	1	1	...	...
45	1	...	1	1	...	...
55	1	...	...
65 and upwards.	6	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
TOTALS	12	5	4	...	7	5	4	...

TABLE 5.
RAINFALL, 1937.

Month			Rainfall Inches	No. of days on which rain fell	Largest fall in 24 hours
January	...	...	7·72	28	·91
February	...	...	9·25	26	1·00
March	...	...	6·43	20	·88
April	...	...	4·57	17	·63
May	...	...	3·22	13	1·05
June	...	...	1·77	9	·45
July	...	...	2·15	12	·69
August	...	...	·55	7	·17
September	...	...	3·99	19	·82
October	...	...	3·15	9	·84
November	...	...	3·34	11	1·31
December	...	...	6·59	19	1·64
TOTAL	...	...	52·73	190	
TOTAL 1936	...	...	53·52	219	

ST. AUSTELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1937

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ST. AUSTELL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present my second Annual Report covering the year ended 31st December, 1937.

In my last Annual Report the year 1936 was described as one of unprecedented activity—the figures for that year then being the highest on record. Accordingly, it is very gratifying to report that these figures were exceeded in 1937—a year which can be claimed as the most active and progressive ever recorded in the St. Austell Urban District.

The total number of inspections made, 4194, is an increase of 736 on the previous year and an increase of 1736 on the figures for the year 1935. A total of 1986 inspections were made relative to Housing and Slum Clearance—this figure being the highest on record. The figures for Meat Inspection during 1937 are also the highest on record. Increased attention was paid to Water Supplies, both public and private, during the year, more samples being collected for analysis than ever before. Full particulars of these samples are given later in the report.

The year was also notable from the legislative point of view—the Housing Act, 1936, coming into operation on the 1st January, 1937. This Act consolidated the provisions of three previous Housing Acts in 191 Sections. The Public Health Act, 1936, came into operation on the 1st October, 1937, and marked the culmination of intensive amendment and consolidation of Public Health Law. This Act contains a total of 347 Sections which consolidate the provisions of over 600 sections of previous legislation—27 whole Acts being repealed and 48 other Acts being affected. The Act has effected a large number of technical amendments in Public Health Law and also consolidated such Law, with the amendments, into a single Statute. The Public Health Act, 1936, is the most notable piece of Public Health Legislation since 1875 and will long remain a monument to the immense work carried out by the Local Government and Public Health Consolidation Committee set up by Parliament.

The standard of activity set up in 1937 will, in my opinion, have to be continued and extended in the future in order adequately to cope with the amount of work and the many problems in the enlarged St. Austell Urban District. Consequently, I have given consideration to the question of Staff and this is dealt with in the last paragraph of this report.

The main items of the report are set out in classified order as follows:—

1. Housing: Slum Clearance.

Under the Five Year Programme of Slum Clearance a continuously progressive policy was pursued throughout the year.

A Ministry of Health Public Inquiry relative to ten Clearance Areas, containing a total of 42 houses at St. Blazey and Tywardreath, was held at the Municipal Offices, on the 23rd March, by S. G. Bulstrode, Esq., A.R.I.B.A., a Ministry of Health Inspector. I gave evidence at this Inquiry on behalf of the Council and 41 out of the 42 houses were subsequently confirmed for demolition. The Council declared 13 further Clearance Areas containing a total of 69 houses towards the end of the year. Seven of these Clearance Areas are in the West Central Ward, five are in the East Central Ward and one is in the West Ward. A Ministry of Health Public Inquiry will be held relative to these properties early in the new year.

Since the commencement of the Five Year Slum Clearance Programme, the Council has declared a total of 40 Clearance Areas containing 341 houses. The Clearance Areas are distributed as follows: 12 in St. Blazey Ward, 7 in Tywardreath Ward, 9 in West Ward, 7 in West Central Ward and 5 in East Central Ward. Public Inquiries have been held in respect of 272 houses of which 259 houses have been confirmed for demolition by the Ministry of Health.

With reference to Re-Housing, considerable progress was made with the St. Blazey Housing Scheme at Middleway, which will, when completed, comprise 154 houses and 6 lock-up shops. There will be 2 bedroom flats over the 6 lock-up shops and 12 one-bedroom bungalows for aged persons will also be erected. Altogether this Scheme will provide Re-Housing accommodation for 702 persons. Further the Tywardreath Housing Scheme consisting of 16 houses was undertaken and completed during the year.

2. Housing: Reconditioning.

Inspection revealed that some of the houses on the Five Year Slum Clearance Programme were capable of being made fit for human habitation. Accordingly, the Council gave the owners of such properties an opportunity to submit Schemes for reconditioning.

A number of such Schemes were submitted and subsequently approved by the Council with the result that 26 working-class dwelling houses were reconditioned under supervision during the year. A further 36 houses had Schemes approved before the end of the year and work on these had in some cases been commenced towards the end of the year and in all cases is due to be completed early in 1938—a time limit having been fixed by the Council for each Scheme.

This work of reconditioning has aroused a good deal of interest in the District, the Council pursuing the policy of trying to save an old house wherever possible, subject to the owner submitting a suitable and comprehensive scheme. This policy is endorsed by Section 51 of the Housing Act, 1936, which provides that where a working-class dwelling has been reconditioned to the satisfaction of the Council, they may issue to the owner a Certificate that the house is fit for human habitation and will with reasonable care and maintenance remain so fit for a period of not less than 5 nor more than 10 years, such period to be specified in the Certificate. Such Certificate gives immunity under the Act for the period specified.

The main points to which attention has been given in reconditioning working-class houses are as follows:—

- (1) The provision of extra windows so as to give (a) through ventilation and (b) more adequate lighting.
- (2) The curing of dampness.
- (3) The repair and strengthening of weak and defective floors.
- (4) The reconstruction and/or pointing of walls where necessary.
- (5) Repairs to roofs, spouting, etc.
- (6) The provision of proper and accessible water supply.
- (7) The provision of accommodation for the proper storage of food.
- (8) The provision of new paving, drainage and proper sanitary conveniences.

The policy of reconditioning is to be pursued even further as is evidenced by the fact that the Council adopted the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts towards the end of the year and submitted a Scheme to the Ministry of Health to enable them to provide financial assistance for the reconditioning of fifty houses. The Scheme submitted received the approval of the Ministry of Health.

The Housing (Rural Workers) Acts provide for the giving of financial assistance for the reconstruction or improvement of houses for agricultural workers and persons whose economic position is substantially the same as that of such workers. Assistance may be given by means of a Grant and/or Loan and the value of the proposed work must be not less than £50. The amount of the Grant must not exceed £100 in respect of each house, nor must it exceed 2/3rds of the estimated cost of the work. The Scheme has been prepared to help in the improvement of the housing conditions of Rural Workers. Assistance will only be available where the value of the house on completion of the work does not exceed £400. The whole of the works must be completed within six months of receiving the Council's approval.

3. **Housing: Abatement of Overcrowding.**

No further survey has been carried out to ascertain the extent of Overcrowding since the Survey of 1936—which entailed visiting all the 6,753 Houses in the District. As a result, 67 definite cases of Overcrowding were discovered—representing less than 1 per cent of the houses visited.

The Ministry of Health Circular No. 1539 stresses the importance of the provisions of Section 62 (2) of the Housing Act, 1936 relative to entries which are required to be made in rent books containing a summary of the provisions of the Housing Act and a statement of the “Permitted Number” of persons in relation to each house.

Under this Section of the Act it is the duty of the Local Authority, upon the application of the Landlord or the occupier of a dwelling-house, to inform the applicant in writing of the number of persons constituting the “Permitted Number” in relation to the house. To perform this function entails measurement of the rooms of each house and computing the “Permitted Number” of the house, such permitted number being issued to the applicant in the form of a certificate. The Minister points out that the Statutory obligation of the Local Authority will be discharged by this action and that it is desirable that all these necessary entries should be inserted in rent-books by the date from which offences may occur.

Accordingly, necessary measurements have been carried out and permitted numbers computed for houses as follows:—

No. of Council Houses Measured During 1936	448
No. of Council Houses Measured During 1937	176
No. of Private Houses Measured During 1937	397
	<hr/>
TOTAL No. of Houses Measured to Date	1021
	<hr/>

Applications from landlords of privately-owned dwelling houses for the necessary “Permitted Numbers” are still being received and are being dealt with strictly in rotation.

4. **Meat and Food Inspection.**

Early in 1936 all the butchers in the District were circularised with pamphlets outlining the provisions of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. Forms of Notification of all Regular Slaughtering were also obtained from every butcher—these Forms being filed for the proper administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

At the end of 1937 there were 28 Private Slaughterhouses Licensed in the District and widely scattered over the Area. Killing is regularly carried on at the majority of these Slaughterhouses several days each week, consequently Meat Inspection presents a formidable task—the amount of work entailed being

enormous. Under existing conditions it is impossible to inspect anything like the full percentage of animals slaughtered for sale for human food in this District. Even so it is very gratifying to report that the number of visits paid to Slaughterhouses during the year, viz.: 943, is the highest on record and the number of carcasses inspected post-mortemly, viz.: 1433, is also the highest ever recorded.

The following figures show in detail the quantities of meat inspected during the year:—

BOVINES.

Bulls	...	...	Nil.	
Bullocks	...	...	308	
Cows	...	...	30	
Heifers	...	...	235	
Calves	...	...	1	
TOTAL	...	...	...	574
Sheep	...	...	...	321
Pigs	...	...	...	538
TOTAL	...	...	...	<u>1433</u>

As a result of inspection the following carcasses and organs were condemned:—

TUBERCULOSIS.

(a) COWS.	1 Head.
(b) HEIFERS.	1 Carcase and all organs. 2 Fore-Quarters and all organs. 1 Fore-Quarter and half Loin. 3 Sets Lungs. 3 Livers. 1 Head. 1 Mesentery.
(c) BULLOCKS.	3 Heads. 2 Sets Lungs.
(d) PIGS.	45 Heads. 2 Carcases and all organs. 2 Hind-Quarters. 1 Set Lungs. 1 Liver.

CAVERNOUS ANGIOMA. 3 Cows' Livers.
3 Bullocks' Livers.

CIRRHOSIS. 8 Bullocks' Livers.
8 Heifers' Livers.
1 Cow's Liver.

DISTOMATOSIS. 1 Bullock's Liver.

MULTIPLE ABSCESES. 1 Bullock's Liver.

DROPSY.	2 Pig Carcases and all organs. 1 Fore-Quarter of Heifer.
CYSTIC.	2 Sheeps' Livers. 1 Bullocks' Liver. 1 Pig's Liver. 1 Set Pig's Lungs.
INFLAMMATION.	1 Pig's Liver and Lungs.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations require the immediate notification to the Local Authority of any diseased or unsound condition found in any carcase or organ of any animal slaughtered for sale for human food and this requirement is usually complied with.

There was one notable exception during the year, however, proceedings being instituted by the Council against a butcher for failing to notify a bullock carcase affected with Tuberculosis, and kept in a locked Slaughterhouse. The case came before the Local Court in May, the defendant pleaded guilty and was subsequently convicted and fined £10.

During the year 7 applications were received for renewal of Slaughter-Mens Licences under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, all of which were granted by the Council.

I now wish to outline a particular endeavour which aroused a good deal of interest early in 1937 and which has been the subject of some approbation since—the Reconditioning of Slaughterhouses in the Urban District.

At the end of 1936 there were 29 Private Slaughterhouses Licensed in the District and it was recognised that while some of these were satisfactory, the majority were unsatisfactory and definitely below standard. Accordingly, a review of the structural condition of all these buildings was carried out early in the year.

As a result, 8 Slaughterhouses were passed as being satisfactory, 2 were condemned and subsequently closed—leaving 19 which were unsatisfactory to be dealt with by means of reconditioning.

A specification of necessary works was prepared in respect of each of these 19 buildings and submitted to each respective owner. This was followed up by a meeting on the site and the Council's requirements were fully explained. The whole procedure was kept as informal as possible—without even a suggestion of compulsion. The response to this policy was most encouraging and exceeded all expectations. In every case the necessary work was quickly put in hand, carried out and completed under my supervision in a manner which was entirely satisfactory. Not only were the Council's requirements fully met—in several cases they were exceeded. Further, one of the condemned Slaughterhouses was replaced by an entirely new structure constructed on modern and hygienic lines, and in every way satisfactory.

I would like to record my appreciation, not only of the way the owners and butchers met both the Council and myself in this matter, but also of the spirit of willing co-operation in which this work was carried out. The result has been a raising of the general standard throughout the Urban District—the Slaughterhouses now being in a more hygienic and better structural condition than at any time in the past.

5. Fish Inspection.

During the year 2,334 Half-casks and 2,191 Quarter-casks of Pickled Pilchards for export to Italy from Mevagissey were inspected and Official Certificates issued to the exporters for countersignature by the Consular Agent. Since there are approximately 600 pilchards to a half-cask, these figures represent a grand total of over two million pilchards exported from Mevagissey during 1937—a 100 per cent increase on the previous year.

6. Milk and Dairies.

Important powers are vested in the Council under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, relative to:—

- (1) Registration of all Milk Producers and Retail Purveyors.
- (2) The Reconditioning of Dairies and Cowsheds.
- (3) The Sampling of Milk for Testing for Tuberculosis.
- (4) Clean Milk Production.

It has not yet been possible to compile the necessary Register of Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, Cowkeepers, Milk Producers and Retail Purveyors of Milk within the District—the majority of which were in the portion of the St. Austell Rural District taken over into the Urban Area on the 1st April, 1934. In this connection, however, I can state provisionally that there are approximately 200 Cowkeepers, Dairy men and Retail Purveyors of Milk in the District.

Further, there are 2 Farms at which “Tuberculin Tested” Milk is produced and 5 Farms at which “Accredited” Milk is produced—all under Licence of the County Council.

There is no plant in the Urban District at which “Pasteurised” Milk is produced, but Pasteurised Milk is distributed—under Licence of the Urban District Council—in the St. Austell and St. Blazey Areas by the respective District Co-operative Societies. Both Societies obtain their supplies of Pasteurised Milk from the Co-operative Wholesale Society Dairy at Penryn. I have inspected the Pasteurising Plant at this Dairy on two occasions during the year and can state that it is a model of its kind and in every way satisfactory—the whole process of Pasteurisation being strictly controlled under Licence of the Borough Council and in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

In view of the great interest now being taken in milk generally, and in "Tuberculin Tested," "Accredited" and "Pasteurised" Milk in particular, I set below the Licence conditions prescribed by the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, controlling the production of these special grades of milk.

"Tuberculin Tested" Milk is from cows that have passed a veterinary examination and a tuberculin test and such milk may be bottled on the farm or elsewhere. The milk must be so produced that a sample taken at any time before delivery to the consumer shall not contain more than 200,000 bacteria per millilitre and it must satisfy a prescribed methylene blue reduction test for cleanliness. Further, it must contain no coliform bacillus in 1/100th of a millilitre.

"Accredited" Milk is raw milk from cows which have passed a veterinary examination and may be bottled on the farm or elsewhere. Such milk must satisfy the same bacteriological tests as raw Tuberculin Tested Milk.

"Pasteurised" Milk is milk which has been retained at a temperature of 145 degrees to 150 degrees Fahrenheit for at least 30 minutes and then immediately cooled to a temperature of not more than 55 degrees Fahrenheit. These conditions for Pasteurised Milk are substantially the same as those prescribed by the Order of 1923, except that stricter conditions are imposed with regard to thermometers and temperature records. On testing, after Pasteurisation, the milk must not contain more than 100,000 bacteria per millilitre.

Clean Milk Production at the many farms in the district presents its own special problems, and in my opinion it will only be on completion of the Council's Housing Programme that sufficient time will be available to carry out this most important and very necessary work.

Propaganda plays an important part in the launching of a "Clean Milk Campaign" and in this respect I drafted a Circular Handbill outlining provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and 1,000 copies were printed for distribution to the Milk Producers and Retailers in the District.

Further, towards the end of the year, arrangements were in hand for the organisation of two Clean Milk Demonstrations to be held in this District early in 1938. The first Demonstration to deal with Clean Milk Production at the Farm and the second Demonstration to deal with the Hygienic Cooling, Bottling and Distribution of Milk right up to Delivery to the Consumer. The co-operation of the County Dairy Organiser has been obtained for these Demonstrations and it is felt that the resulting propaganda will be of great value. At the end of the year I was compiling a list of suitable films on Clean Milk Production for submission to the Council—such films to be shown in conjunction with the second Demonstration outlined above.

The Scheme for Milk Supply to Schools is administered by the Cornwall County Council. At the end of the year, however, I obtained from the District Education Officer a list of local Schools being supplied with milk under the Scheme. Further, I obtained from the County Council a list of farms supplying milk to the Schools in St. Austell. I also arranged for the County Dairy Department to furnish me with Copy Reports on all milk samples collected from supplies destined for Schools in the St. Austell Urban District—the arrangement being for such Reports to be furnished regularly in the future.

7. Water Supplies.

A total of 19 Samples of Water were collected during the year from various sources, both public and private, and these were submitted to Dr. Hocking, County Pathologist, at Truro for Chemical Analysis and Bacteriological Examination as follows:—

(a) From Public Supplies	...	...	13
(b) From Private Supplies	...	...	6
			—
			19
			—

Of the Public Supplies, the well at Tregorrick was found to be badly polluted and this was immediately closed by order of the Council. Water drawn from the pump in Fore Street, St. Blazey, showed some evidence of pollution, but not enough to render the water unsafe for drinking purposes. As this water was being used as an auxillary supply during the summer months, however, notices were affixed to the pump advising that all water drawn for drinking purposes be thoroughly boiled as a precautionary measure.

Samples collected from two of the Council's Main Supplies, Bojea and Kilgogue, were reported as being somewhat below standard—both Supplies subsequently receiving the attention of the Council's Water Engineer.

Of the Private Supplies, three out of the six samples were unsatisfactory—two of these being shallow well supplies and the third a surface spring. One of the shallow wells was closed and a piped supply laid on to the property from the Council's main. All consumers of water from the two other sources were notified to boil all water drawn for drinking purposes while negotiations were commenced with the Owners for the laying on of a piped water-supply from the Council's main to the properties concerned.

Although the total of 19 samples represents the largest number ever collected in any one year, in view of the large number of public and private sources of water supply in this District, I am of opinion that this total will have to be increased in the future.

The importance of Water Supplies from the Public Health point of view makes it imperative to inaugurate a system of regular sampling—so as to provide a constant check on the quality of water supplied for human consumption and in order adequately to safeguard all consumers.

8. Sanitary Conveniences, Mount Charles School.

It is gratifying to report that the Sanitary Conveniences at Mount Charles School were completely modernised by the County Council during the summer holiday—the entire Scheme costing approximately £240. From records I find that your Sanitary Inspector reported these conveniences as being unsatisfactory as far back as October, 1935, and they have been a source of general complaint for some considerable time. The County Council carried out a Scheme of thorough reconstruction—the old conveniences being scrapped entirely. These were replaced by 14 modern type water closets, each with separate 2-gallon flushing cistern, together with two new urinals with automatic flushing tanks. The Scheme also included the construction of a new drainage system in conjunction with the new conveniences on entirely modern lines and fully complying with the requirements of the Council's Byelaws. The whole Scheme was completed to my entire satisfaction and all concerned will be glad to know that this old standing complaint has been properly rectified—the Sanitary conveniences at Mount Charles School now being in a modern and satisfactory condition.

9. Factories and Workshops.

Section 14 of the Factories and Workshops Act, 1901, requires that factories and workshops employing 40 or more persons must have a Certificate from the Local Authority as to adequacy of means of escape in case of fire. As a result of inspection by H.M. Inspector of Factories I was notified that a large factory at St. Blazey, employing over 100 people, was without such Certificate. This factory was found to have 8 main exits which did not comply with the requirements of the Act and accordingly Notice was served by the Council. The necessary work was subsequently carried out to my satisfaction—all 8 exits finally complying with the requirements of the Act—automatic panic bolts being fitted where necessary.

10. Camping Sites.

Holiday campers are naturally attracted to a district like St. Austell which possesses such splendid coastal scenery. Accordingly there are within the district Camping Sites which are regularly utilised by visitors who bring motor caravans and/or tents during the summer season.

The Public Health Act, 1936, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1937, extends the powers of Local Authorities in this behalf—giving them power to exercise further control over camping and camping sites. Thus, while holiday camping is a

growing practice and has much to commend it in the interests of national health, it has, in the absence of adequate legislation for proper control, brought certain difficulties in its train. Under the new Act, the Local Authority is empowered to grant Licences (a) for standing camps in which there is camping in excess of 42 consecutive days and (b) for movable dwellings, etc., used for camping on land for a similar period. Under the first class of case, application for a licence is made by the occupier of the land and in the second class of case either by the occupier of the land or the individual camper.

Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, further provides that the Local Authority may attach to any such Licence such conditions as they think fit:—

- (a) in the case of a licence authorising the use of land, with respect to the number and classes of moveable dwellings which may be kept thereon at the same time, and the space to be kept free between any two such dwellings, with respect to water supply, and for securing sanitary conditions:—
- (b) in the case of a licence authorising the use of a moveable dwelling, with respect to the use of that dwelling (including the space to be kept free between it and any other such dwelling) and its removal at the end of a specified period, and for securing sanitary conditions.

There is no doubt that the wisest use of these new powers by the Local Authorities concerned will lead to improvements of the conditions in holiday camping generally.

An entirely different type of case is presented by vagrants who set up undesirable encampments in various parts of the District during the year, the occupants living under unsatisfactory conditions without water supply or sanitation. Four such encampments were dealt with during the year—3 being removed after the giving of formal notice. In the fourth case, however, proceedings had to be instituted by the Council and the case came before the Local Court in May, the defendant being convicted and a fine imposed.

11. Staff.

The Pupil-Assistant Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ronald Osborne, having qualified as a Sanitary Inspector in May, 1936, obtained the Meat and Food Inspectors Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in June, 1937. Later in the year Mr. Osborne was appointed Assistant Sanitary Inspector to the Plympton Rural District Council and took over the appointment on the 1st September.

L. H. Sturtridge, who was articled as a Pupil-Assistant Sanitary Inspector in October, 1936, rendered valuable assistance throughout the year—his work being very much appreciated.

T. G. Blamey was articled as an additional Pupil-Assistant Sanitary Inspector in February, 1937, and the assistance I have so far received from him has been much appreciated.

The departure of R. Osborne at the end of August left me without qualified assistance and I carried on as well as possible until the end of the year. By that time it was apparent that the work could not be adequately carried on without a properly qualified assistant Sanitary Inspector. Accordingly, the question of the appointment of a fully qualified Additional Sanitary Inspector is to be considered by the Council early in 1938.

12. **Conclusion.**

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council for their consideration and support during the year. I would also like to thank Dr. Moore for his most valuable support and co-operation at all times, and Mr. Dobell, Mr. Groves and all other Members of the Staff for their willing co-operation throughout the year.

I am writing this Report in March, 1938—as I am taking my leave of St. Austell—having been appointed Senior Sanitary Inspector to the Midhurst (Sussex) Rural District Council as from 1st April, 1938. Naturally, I am proud of the fact that my two years work in St. Austell has broken all previous records. Throughout this period I have enjoyed excellent relations with the Members of the Council, with my colleagues on the Staff and with the general public. I shall always follow events in St. Austell with the greatest interest and I shall always be pleased to re-visit Cornwall—especially to see the progress being made in the development of the St. Austell Urban District.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

F. HARDING,

Sanitary Inspector.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
TRURO ROAD,
ST. AUSTELL.

26th March, 1938.

TABLE No. 1.
SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Housing Visits	...	...	...	734
Re-inspections	...	...	...	1252
Drainage Visits	...	...	...	387
Re-inspections	...	...	...	171
Works in progress	...	...	...	2
Special visits	...	...	...	213
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	943
Meat Regulations	...	...	...	76
Dairies, Cowsheds, etc.	...	...	...	12
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	59
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	5
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	24
Vans, Tents, etc.	...	...	...	77
Shops	...	...	...	103
Petroleum and Carbide of Calcium Stores	...	...	...	102
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	29
TOTAL VISITS FOR THE YEAR				4194

TABLE No. 2.
STATUTORY AND INFORMAL NOTICES.

The following Table shows the action taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the removal of conditions dangerous or injurious to health.

NOTICES.	NO. SERVED.	COMPLIED WITH.	WORK DONE BY COUNCIL IN DEFAULT.
INFORMAL	144	144	Nil
STATUTORY	118	118	Nil
Total	262	262	Nil

SUMMARY OF STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED
DURING THE YEAR.

Public Health Act 1875, Section 36	.....	.....	2
Public Health Acts (Amend.) Act, 1907, Section 27 (4)			9
Factory and Work-shop Act, 1907, Section 14 (1)			1
Housing Act, 1936, Section 11 (1)	.....	.....	27
Housing Act, 1936, Section 26	.....	.....	42
Housing Act, 1936, Section 29 (1)	.....	.....	3
Housing Act, 1936, Section 66 (3)	.....	.....	1
Housing Act, 1936, Section 168	.....	.....	33
TOTAL			118

TABLE No. 3.
DRAINAGE, SANITARY CONVENIENCES AND
MISCELLANEOUS WORKS.

(a) **Drainage.**

1.	No of Houses and Premises Re-Drained	.....	16
2.	Repairs or Amendments to Existing Drains		1
3.	Drains or Gullies unstopped or cleansed	.....	22
4.	Length in yards stoneware drains laid	.....	323
5.	Manholes provided	.....	25
6.	New manhole covers	.....	1
7.	Intercepting traps fixed	.....	10
8.	New gully traps fixed	.....	24
9.	Soil-pipes and Vent-shafts fixed	.....	18
10.	Water tests applied	.....	2
11.	Smoke tests applied	.....	9
12.	Sewers unblocked	.....	3

(b) **Sanitary Conveniences.**

1.	New Water-Closet Accommodation provided		48
2.	New Water-Closet Pedestals provided	.....	3
3.	New Flushing Cisterns provided	.....	48
4.	Lavatory basins fixed	.....	7
5.	Baths provided	.....	4
6.	Sinks provided	.....	9
7.	New Waste-Pipes provided	.....	8
8.	Privies abolished	.....	2
9.	Urinals repaired	.....	2
10.	Cesspools emptied	.....	3
11.	Urinals provided	.....	2
12.	Cesspools provided	.....	6

(c) **Miscellaneous.**

1.	Roofs repaired	.....	4
2.	Eaves Gutters renewed	.....	6
3.	Rain Water Pipes repaired	.....	6
4.	Stack Pipes provided	.....	1
5.	Damp walls remedied (in sq. yds.)	.....	98
6.	Walls repaired or repointed (in sq. yds.)	.....	243
7.	Yards paved	.....	10
8.	Yards repaired (in sq. yds.)	.....	114
9.	Floors of rooms relaid (in sq. yds.)	.....	17
10.	Floors of rooms repaired (in sq. yds.)	.....	20
11.	New Windows provided	.....	36
12.	Plaster of Walls or ceilings repaired (in sq. yds.)	.....	70
13.	New Window sills provided	.....	36
14.	Ventilated food stores provided	.....	12
15.	Staircases provided or repaired	.....	5

16.	Water service pipes extended	.....	.....	12
17.	Nuisances abated	.....	.....	11
18.	Cowsheds cleansed	.....	.....	1
19.	New coppers provided	.....	.....	1
20.	Coppers repaired	.....	.....	2
21.	New stoves provided	.....	.....	1
22.	Rooms disinfected	.....	.....	46

TABLE No. 4.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:—

1.	(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	245
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	.....	734
2.	(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	.....	0
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	.....	0
3.		Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.....	0
4.		Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.....	26

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—

	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	26
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:			
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	.....	.....	0
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:			
(a)	By owners	.....	.....	0
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	.....	.....	0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By local authority in default of owners	0

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	13
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	64
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	64
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	396½
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil.
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	Nil.
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil.
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil.
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil.

